

**Regional Report on the CMS related activities in Central and Eastern Europe
to the 31st Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee**

Period covered: November 2005 – September 2006.

During the reporting period a number of CMS events took place in Europe outcomes of which are important for CEE countries.

8–10 May 2006, the 11th Meeting of the Advisory Committee to EUROBATS took place in the City of Luxembourg, Luxembourg, where draft resolutions for forthcoming MOP and other issues were discussed.

24–27 June 2006, the First Meeting of Signatories to Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler and Symposium took place in Lower Order Valley National Park, Criewen, Germany, where a number countries from Central and Eastern Europe took part (Belorussia, Ukraine, the Russian Federation etc.) where further priorities and tasks were set for coming years.

4–6 September 2006 the 5th Session of the Meeting of the Parties to EUROBATS was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, which summarized the activities under this Agreement for the previous triennium. A number of important resolutions was adopted which will direct activities of the Parties for the next four years. The countries of CEE region have submitted their National Reports which are available on the EUROBATS website.

In Ukraine one of the great concerns is cancellation of the GEF/World Bank project "Azov-Black Sea Corridor Biodiversity Conservation". This project covers vast area along the Azov-Black Sea coast where a lot of key habitats important for migratory animals are situated especially for birds, bats and cetaceans. If implemented the project will greatly contribute to the conservation or restoration of those habitats as well as facilitate increasing of public awareness on migratory species in the region thus promoting both CMS and the CMS related agreements and MoU to reach their objectives not only in Ukraine but in other Black and Azov Seas riparian countries. While negotiations on the national level are practically stopped with the World Bank regional office, a support of international communities and organizations is still required to resume the project.

To seek more information on the CMS related activities in the CEE region an inquiry has been sent before the StC Meeting to the relevant CMS Focal Points. Only Czech Republic replied. The country provided the following information:

- the second part of "Atlas of migration of the birds in the Czech Republic and Slovakia (songbirds)" is in preparation, next year both of parts of the book should be edited;
- on 1 September 2006 the AEWA will enter into force for the Czech Republic;
- the preparation of entry of the Czech Republic into MoU on the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) is starting;
- EUROBATS-three-years project "Detecting of bats in different types of forest in the CR" will finish at the end of 2006, the working group for EUROBATS implementation had a meeting in April 2006, the two-members delegation participated in MOP 5 in Slovenia (4–6 Sept), the delegation proposed there to convene next MOP in the Czech Republic;
- the country specific website for AEWA (under www.env.cz) is in preparation, websites of EUROBATS and CMS are actualized regularly;

- The brochure of the MEAs implementation including info of activities of CMS and EUROBATS in the Czech Republic in 2005 was edited by the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic this year in June;
- the meeting of working group for conventions of nature protection (CMS, AEWA, EUROBATS, Ramsar, CBD, CITES, Bern, UNCCD, Carpathian Convention) is planned for November 2006.